alerted our India-based security staff to be more vigilant.

**Cancellation of SAARC Summit at Dhaka**

206. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cancellation of Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka has led to cancellation of the SAARC Summit at Dhaka; and

(b) if so, the reasons for cancellation of PMs visit to attend the SAARC Summit at Dhaka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) The postponement of the 7th SAARC Summit to January 13-14, 1993 was decided in consultation with the Heads of State/Government by the current Chairman of SAARC, the President of Sri Lanka. India had agreed to the new dates in the hope that the post-Ayodhya situation in and around India would have stabilised by then. Unfortunately, acts amounting to interference in the internal affairs of India continued to vitiate the atmosphere and it was felt that the political direction needed to provide substance and content to the functioning of regional cooperation would not be forthcoming. The SAARC Summit was, in the circumstances, again postponed. Fresh dates are now in the process of being settled through diplomatic channels.

**Refurbishing secular image of India**

207. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the overall affect on the country's international image and identity in the wake of Ayodhya happenings and its fall out; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government both at diplomatic and political level to clear the misgivings in the world community and to refurbish the sagging secular image of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The happenings at Ayodhya and subsequent violence in different parts of India elicited reactions of concern around the world. International media dwelt on the subject at some length for several days. Apart from media comments and public reactions, official responses emanated from over 40 countries/organisations in one form or the other. The majority expressed understanding and confidence in the Government of India's determination and ability to deal with the situation.

(b) Immediately after the incidents on December 6, the Ministry of External Affairs took measures to instruct our Embassies abroad to portray to their respective Governments the events in their correct perspective and reiterated our commitment to the ideals of secularism and the protection of minorities. The statements of the President and the Prime Minister were conveyed. Ambassadors resident in Delhi were briefed individually and in groups by Secretaries and Additional Secretaries in the Ministry. The Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the organisation of Islamic Countries were further separately briefed by the Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Foreign Secretary. We stressed the need for restraint and moderation by bodies like the OIC and the GCC so that there would not be any unfortunate repercussions in India. The Ministry kept our Missions informed of the actions taken by the Government to control the situation.

The message of the Prime Minister on the evening of December 6, was widely appreciated and contributed to containing negative reactions to the event. Diplomatic and publcity

efforts continue to remedy the negative impressions and assessment generated by the events in Ayodhya in December and consequent developments within the Country.

**Reduction in Staff strength of Indian Consulate in Karachi**

208. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment of Pakistan have decided to scale down the staff strength of Indian Consulate in Karachi from 64 to 20;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such action of Pakistan;

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) to what extent the work of Indian Consulate in Karachi is likely to suffer; and

(e) what steps Government have taken for the safety of Indian Consulate staff?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) On 29-12-92 Pakistan conveyed to us its decision on the basis of a unilateral interpretation of the Code of Conduct on the Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel that the strength of the Consulates of India and Pakistan in Bombay and Karachi should be kept at a maximum of 20 personnel.

(c) Government have conveyed to Pakistan its regret over the unilateral decision which is not in consonance with the spirit of the Code of Conduct. The staff in CGI Karachi has since been reduced to 20.

(d) The reduced strength of staff in the Consulate General of India in Karachi would impede the expeditious processing of visa request of Pakistani nationals to visit India and will reduce people to people contact between India and Pakistan.

(e) Government have conveyed through diplomatic channels that Pakistan is obliged to ensure the safety of India's property and personnel under international conventions and the Code of Conduct.

**भारत और रूस के बीच में हुआ करार**

209. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रूस के राष्ट्रपति, श्री बोरिस येल्त्सिन के साथ भारत-सरकार की किन-किन मुद्दों पर सहमति हुई है ;

(ख) कश्मीर समस्या और रूबल-रूपया विनिमय के सम्बन्ध में रूस के राष्ट्रपति के क्या विचार थे ; और

(ग) क्या पूर्व सोवियत संघ के साथ जिन सभी मुद्दो पर भारत की संधि हुई थी वह संधि अभी भी जारी है या उसमें कहीं कोई गतिरोध पैदा हो गया है ?

**विदेश मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) :** (क) और (ख) रूसी परिसंघ के राष्ट्रपति श्री येल्त्सिन की यात्रा के दौरान आपसी हित-चिन्ता के बहुत से मसलों पर भारत और रूसी परिसंघ के बीच चर्चा हुई थी। आपसी हित के महत्वपूर्ण मसलों पर दोनों देशों के बीच मुख्य रूप से विचारों में समानता थी।

रुपय-रूबल विनिमय दर पर, तथा भूतपूर्व सोवियत समाजवादी गणतन्त्र संघ को भारत द्वारा देय ऋण पर उसे लागू करने के सम्बन्ध में भारत और रूस के बीच सहमति हुई थी।